



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

October 31, 2007

Ms. Sara Brown, Treasurer
Ohio Republican Party State Central &
Executive Committee
211 S. Fifth Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Response Due Date:
December 3, 2007

Identification Number: C00162339

Reference: July Monthly Report (6/1/07 – 6/30/07)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 2 items:

1. Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "payroll bonus" and "staff health insurance." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

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2. Schedule B supporting Line 29 discloses \$4,461.14 in transfers to what appears to be a non-federal account of your committee. Please provide further clarification regarding this transfer(s) to your non-federal account.

You are advised that 11 CFR §102.5 prohibits a non-federal account from financing activity in connection with federal elections. If any of these disbursements were made to influence the election or defeat of specific federal candidates, the disbursements should be allocated accordingly and disclosed as either in-kind contributions on Schedule B supporting Line 23, independent expenditures on Schedule E supporting Line 24, or as coordinated expenditures on Schedule F supporting Line 25. 11 CFR §§104.3(b)(3) and 106.1 In addition, if your non-federal account has paid any expenditures which should have been allocated, you are advised to correct any non-compliance with 11 CFR §§106.6 and 106.7 and establish procedures to insure future compliance with allocation regulations.

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1157.

Sincerely,



Laura E. Sinram
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

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